Helpline for reserved forests to prevent poaching

2499. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a helpline for the reserved forests to prevent poaching in these areas;

(b) if so, the places where this helpline has been introduced;

(c) the other measures taken by Government to prevent poaching and falling number of lions in the country particularly in Gir forests; and

(d) the number of lions in the various forests in the country, reserve forests-wise and whether this number has increased since the last census?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. No such helpline has been launched by the Central Government for the reserved forests to prevent poaching in these areas.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The measures taken by Government of India to prevent poaching of wildlife including lions, *inter alia*, include the following:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime.
2. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife.
4. Wild life Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crimes.
5. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – *Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant*, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.
6. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.
7. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.

In addition, the State of Gujarat has also taken the following measures to protect wildlife including lions:

1. Development of wild life habitat to increase the population of wild animals.

2. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
3. Deployment of more staff for protection.
4. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.
5. Provision for arms and ammunition and communication facilities.
6. Training to frontline staff.
7. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.
8. Implementation of eco development programmes in fringe villages.
9. Provision of compensation for loss of cattle and injury or death of human beings due to wildlife attack.

(d) Free ranging population of Asiatic Lion is found only in the Gir forests and its adjoining areas of Gujarat. As per the information received from the State Government, the last estimation of lion was carried out in April, 2005 and the population of lion in Gir and adjoining areas has increased to 359±10 compared to the previous estimation of 327±5 in 2001.

Problems arising out of climate changes

†2500. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to tackle problems arising out of changes in the climate;

(b) when the Council on Climate Change was constituted;

(c) the number of meetings held by it along with the decisions taken therein; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to tackle the compulsion of mandatory reduction of carbon emission as per the Kyoto Protocol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Government has recently set up an ''Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change'' under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as under:

(i) To study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India.

(ii) To identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.

(iii) Any other matter relevant to (i) and (ii) above.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.